

# Indicator #12: Incidence of Malignant Mesothelioma

## Maryland State Occupational Health Indicators

### About this Indicator:

#### Why is this Indicator Important?

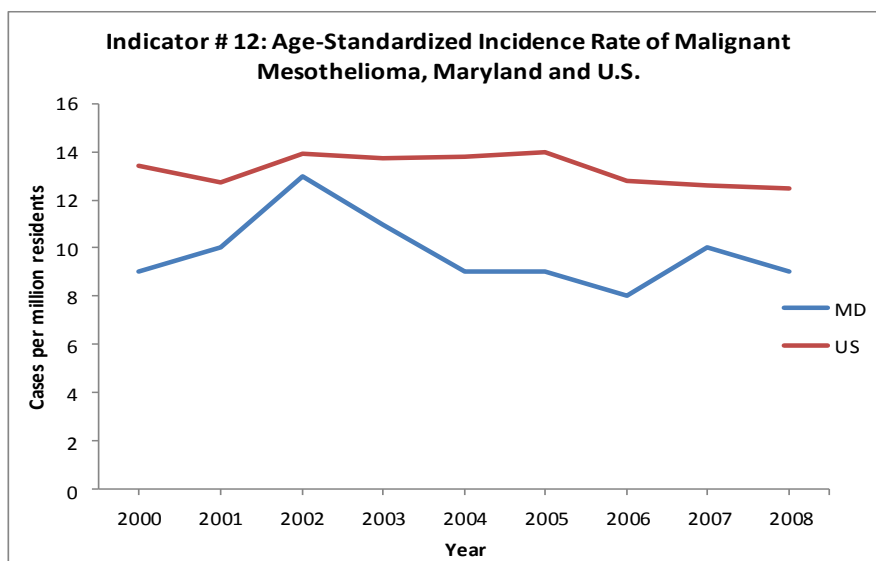
Malignant mesothelioma, is a fatal cancer largely attributable to workplace exposure to asbestos. Tracking of malignant mesothelioma can be used to document the burden of the disease, design, target, and evaluate the impact of prevention efforts over time, and to identify previously unrecognized settings in which workers may continue to be at risk of asbestos exposure.

#### Limitation of Indicator:

Not all cases of mesothelioma are caused by occupational exposures. Because cancer is a disease of long latency, current incidence is not indicative of current exposures and it may be many years before reductions in exposures affect incidence.

For more information on this indicator or occupational health in Maryland, visit the DHMH website.

- Malignant mesothelioma is a rare but highly fatal cancer of the thin membranes surrounding the chest cavity (pleura) or abdominal cavity (peritoneum). Much less frequently, this tumor affects other sites (e.g., pericardium). The only well-established risk factor for mesothelioma is exposure to asbestos fibers. Prior asbestos exposure, primarily from exposure in the workplace, has been reported in 62 to 85 percent of all mesothelioma cases.



### Indicator # 12: Cases of Malignant Mesothelioma, Maryland

Year	Number	Incidence Rate*	Age-standardized Incidence Rate*
2000	47	11.3	9.0
2001	51	12.0	10.0
2002	64	14.9	13.0
2003	57	13.1	11.0
2004	48	10.9	9.0
2005	46	10.3	9.0
2006	44	9.8	8.0
2007	57	12.6	10.0
2008	50	11.0	9.0

**Data Source for this Indicator:** SEER Stat Static data (Numbers of mesothelioma cases); U.S. Census Bureau (population statistics to calculate